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To:	Charles Goodman, Examiner	United States PTO	703-872-9302
Subject:	Serial No. 09/900,359 filed July 6, 2001 by Michael J. Faulks, et al.; Docket No. 14,676.14; Group 3724; Confirmation No. 7546		
	Title: SYSTEM FOR DISPENSING PLURALITY OF WET WIPES		

From:	Scott A. Baum	Page:	1 of 3
Dept:	Legal Department	Date:	November 20, 2003
Loc:	Neenah, Wisconsin	Time:	4:02 pm

RE: USPTO OFFICE COMMUNICATION DATED October 21, 2003

RESPONSE TO MISCELLANEOUS LETTER regarding the above-identified patent application is attached herewith.

CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE

I, Lanette Burton, hereby certify that on November 20, 2003, the aforementioned document is being transmitted via facsimile to the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office, Alexandria, VA, to Right Fax number 703-872-9302.

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In the United States Patent and Trademark Office

Applicants: Michael J. Faulks et al.
Serial No.: 09/900,359
Confirmation No: 7546
Filed: 07/06/2001

Docket No.: 14,676.14
Group: 3724
Examiner: Charles Goodman
Date: November 20, 2003

For: SYSTEM FOR DISPENSING
PLURALITY OF WET WIPES

Response to Miscellaneous Letter

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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Sir:

In response to the Office Communication, paper 14, mailed 10/21/2003, the Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the telephone discussion that was held on November 20, 2003. As noted in the telephone discussion, a definition for the term "flexible elastic sealing orifice" can be found in the specification. At page 5, lines 13 – 21, the specification states:

As used herein, "flexible elastic sealing orifice" means an orifice or opening of a dispenser for wet wipes through which wet wipes are dispensed where the orifice or opening assists in sealing the wet wipes within the dispenser from an environment outside of the dispenser (housing or chamber) and where at least a portion of the orifice through which wet wipes are dispensed has the following flexibility and elasticity characteristics: an elastic modulus value (measured by 300% modulus (ASTM D 412)) between 50 psi and 1000 psi and a Gurley stiffness value (ASTM D 6125-97) between 100 milligrams of force (mgf) and 8000 mgf.

The term is also used in the specification in the description of the Drag Relationship Test Method. At page 35, lines 6 – 7, the specification states:

The sealing orifice (e.g., here the wiper blade) is cleaned thoroughly using isopropyl alcohol wipes (e.g. those from Kendall Healthcare Products Company, a division of the Kendall Company, Mansfield, MA 02048) before each different sample group is tested.

A flexible elastic sealing orifice, as previously noted, is further discussed in the specification at page 36, line 27 through page 37, line 10. The specifications states:

The dispenser can include a flexible elastic sealing orifice through which wet wipes from the plurality of separably joined wet wipes can be dispensed from the sealed chamber. As seen in the accompanying figures, this is the wiper blade 10/74 (e.g., Figures 9, 30 and 31) in combination with the adjacent lip 31 of the cartridge or tray of the dispenser. Examples of flexible elastic sealing orifices are also seen in the pending US applications entitled FLEXIBLE ORIFICE FOR WET WIPES DISPENSERS, and WET WIPE

CONTAINER WITH FLEXIBLE ORIFICE, just mentioned. The flexible elastic sealing orifice can seal the wet wipes with a space no greater than, and in order of increasing advantage, 3 mm, 2 mm, 1 mm, 0.5 mm, 0.25 mm or about 0 mm, as such space is defined by the maximum width of the opening formed between any two opposing cooperating parts of the flexible elastic sealing orifice (e.g., slit 340 defined between sides 352 in Figures 41-45) or between the flexible elastic sealing orifice and a cooperating part of the dispenser (e.g., the space between the wiper blade 10 and cartridge lip 31 in Figure 9).

Thus, the above sections of the specification provide support for the term "flexible elastic sealing orifice" as used in the claims. Should the Examiner have additional questions, the Examiner is invited to call the Applicants' representative whose telephone number is (920) 721-7760.

Respectfully submitted,

MICHAEL J. FAULKS ET AL.

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